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Committee for Programme and Coordination
Fifty-fourth session
Organizational session, 24 April 2014
Substantive session, 2-27 June 2014
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Annotated provisional agenda

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Programme questions:
   (a) Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2012-2013;
   (b) Proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017;
   (c) Evaluation.
4. Coordination questions:
   (a) Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;
   (b) New Partnership for Africa's Development.
5. Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit.
6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session.
7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-fourth session.

* Reissued for technical reasons on 19 February 2014.

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

At its twenty-fifth session, the Committee for Programme and Coordination reaffirmed the decision made at its twenty-fourth session that the post of its Chair, as well as the other posts on the Bureau, should rotate annually among the regional groups in the following pattern: (a) Group of African States; (b) Group of Eastern European States; (c) Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; (d) Group of Western European and Other States; and (e) Group of Asia-Pacific States.

At its fifty-fourth session, the Committee may wish to elect the Chair from the Group of the African States in accordance with the agreed pattern of rotation among regional groups, and the Rapporteur from the regional group that occupied the post of Chair of the Committee the previous year, namely, the Group of Asia-Pacific States.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Pursuant to paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/41 and paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 34/50, the Committee submitted to the Council and the Assembly for their review the provisional agenda for its fifty-fourth session, together with the list of documentation requested.

In accordance with paragraph 6 of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX), the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit concerning the economic, social and human rights programmes of the United Nations system, including the reports dealing with the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, shall be examined by the Committee, which shall report thereon to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. In its resolution 59/267, the Assembly invited the Committee, in performing its programmatic, coordination, monitoring and evaluation functions, as set out in its mandate, to consider relevant reports of the Unit. The Assembly, in its resolution 67/236, endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee contained in its report on its fifty-second session, including its recommendation that the Assembly urge the Unit to intensify its efforts to introduce to the Committee reports that are relevant to the function of the Committee, bearing in mind subparagraphs 4 (d) and (e) of article 11 of the statute of the Unit (A/67/16, para. 7). In that connection, the Committee will select, at its organizational meeting, under agenda item 2, the report or reports of the Unit that it will consider at its fifty-fourth session under agenda item 5.

Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 53/207 and 54/236 and its decision 54/474, attention is drawn to Secretary-General's bulletin ST/SGB/2000/8, which contains the approved Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

By its resolution 64/229, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and decided not to include the agenda item "Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination" in future sessions, and further decided to discuss

related matters under the agenda item "Adoption of the agenda and organization of work" as and when needed.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation for the fifty-fourth session (E/AC.51/2014/L.1)

Note by the Secretariat on the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit (E/AC.51/2014/L.2)

3. Programme questions

(a) Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2012-2013

Regulation 6.1 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation provides that:

> The Secretary-General shall monitor accomplishments, as measured by the delivery of outputs scheduled in the approved programme budget, through a central unit in the Secretariat. After the completion of the biennial budget period, the Secretary-General shall report to the General Assembly, through the Committee for Programme and Coordination, on programme performance during that period.

In paragraphs 19 and 20 of its resolution 58/269, entitled "Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change", the General Assembly emphasized the need to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation system and in that regard urged the Secretary-General to improve the format and timing of programme performance and evaluation reports.

In its resolution 59/275, the General Assembly, in endorsing the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee set out in chapter II.B of the report on its forty-fourth session, decided that the relevant programme of the proposed strategic framework would be considered in conjunction with the corresponding section of the programme performance report (A/59/16, para. 388). Since the programme performance report reflects the period two biennium prior to that covered by the proposed strategic framework, the Assembly also decided that the Secretariat would formally present updated information on the relevant parts of the programme performance report on the understanding that such updated information would also be considered.

In paragraph 11 of its resolution 62/224, the Assembly reaffirmed the role of the Committee for Programme and Coordination in reviewing performance and evaluation reports.

By its resolution 63/247, the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee set out in chapter II.A of the report on its forty-eighth session (A/63/16), in which the Committee requested the Secretary-General to provide more detailed information on the outcome of monitoring and evaluation at the departmental and executive levels, taking into account, in particular, how lessons learned were shared and applied in planning activities. It further requested the Secretary-General to improve consistency and to harmonize the presentation of

the information regarding challenges, obstacles and unmet goals across all programmes.

The Assembly, in its resolution 65/244, also endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee set out in chapter II.B of the report on its fiftieth session (A/65/16), in which it requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to improve the programme performance report and, in that regard, to emphasize the need for more clarity and explanation concerning the implementation rate, as well as the reasons for addition, postponement and termination of outputs.

In its resolution 67/236, the Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee set out in chapter II.B of the report on its fifty-second session (A/67/16), and in this regard, requested the Secretary-General to include in future programme performance reports comprehensive information on the impact of the reduction in the number of printed documents on the intergovernmental decision-making process in United Nations conferences and meetings. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to fully explain in future programme performance reports the termination or postponement of outputs and activities owing to vacancies of posts funded under the regular budget.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on programme performance for the biennium 2012-2013

(b) Proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017

In its resolution 58/269 entitled "Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change", the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare, on a trial basis, for submission to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, a strategic framework to replace the four-year medium-term plan, which would comprise in one document:

(a) Part one: a plan outline, reflecting the longer-term objectives of the Organization;

(b) Part two: a biennial programme plan, to cover two years.

By the same resolution, the General Assembly also affirmed that the strategic framework should constitute the principal policy directive of the United Nations and should serve as the basis for programme planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation and decided to review, with a view to taking a final decision at its sixty-second session, the format, content and duration of the strategic framework, including the necessity of maintaining part one.

By its resolution 62/224, the General Assembly considered the recommendations of the Committee contained in chapter III.B of its report on its forty-seventh session and decided to maintain the strategic framework as the principal policy directive of the United Nations with effect from the biennium 2010-2011 and to continue to include part one, plan outline, in the strategic framework (A/62/16, para. 33). The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to improve the format of part one and the reflection of the longer-term objectives therein and reaffirmed that the Committee should, in performing its programmatic role in the planning and budgeting process, continue to review the programmatic aspects of the new and/or revised mandates approved subsequent to the adoption of the biennial

programme plan, as well as any differences that may arise between the biennial programme plan and the programmatic aspects of the proposed programme budget, in accordance with its terms of reference, the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

In paragraph 10 of the same resolution, the General Assembly recalled regulation 5.6 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation and reiterated that the Committee for Programme and Coordination should continue to perform its role in reviewing the strategic framework and to recommend any necessary changes to the Economic and Social Council and the Assembly.

By its resolution 67/236, the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee set out in chapter II.B of the report on its fifty-second session (A/67/16), by which it reiterated the importance of the long-term objectives of the Organization, which were aimed at ensuring the full achievement of its goals, and in that regard, stressed the need for coordinated efforts by the Secretariat to improve the formulation of suitable expected accomplishments in such a way as to ensure that, at the stage of budget preparation, all activities and outputs mandated by Member States would be included for their effective and efficient implementation. While recognizing the improvements in the logical framework, the General Assembly encouraged programme managers to continue to further improve the qualitative aspects of indicators of achievement in order to allow for better evaluation of results, bearing in mind that indicators should be strategic, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound.

In endorsing the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, the General Assembly also reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to ensure, when preparing future outlines, that the proposed strategic frameworks took fully into account the guidelines provided by the Assembly in its resolutions 59/275, 61/235, 62/224 and 63/247, as well as subsequent relevant resolutions, so that the outlines reflected more accurately the longer-term objectives of the Organization, based on all mandates approved by Member States.

In the same resolution, the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee requesting the Secretary-General to present concrete measures and information on actions taken to promote a culture of accountability within the Secretariat in future strategic frameworks, in accordance with its resolution 66/257.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed strategic framework of the period 2016-2017: part one, plan outline, and part two, biennial programme plan (General Assembly resolutions 59/275, 62/224 and 67/236) (A/68/6 (Part one and Progs. 1-28)

(c) Evaluation

Triennial review

By its resolution 66/8, the General Assembly considered the recommendations of the Committee contained in chapter II.B of its report on its fifty-first session (A/66/16) on the programme evaluation by the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The Committee, at its fifty-fourth session, will undertake a triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations of the programme evaluation of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Documentation

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its fifty-first session on the programme evaluation of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (F/AC.51/2014/2)

4. Coordination questions

(a) Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX), the Committee will have before it the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) for 2013.

In paragraph 5 of its resolution 68/20, the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee contained in chapter III, section A, of the report of the Committee on its fifty-third session (A/68/16), on the annual overview report of CEB for 2012. In endorsing the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, the Assembly reaffirmed the importance of continuing the dialogue between CEB and Member States in order to further improve the Board's transparency and accountability with respect to Member States, and in this regard requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to ensure the continuation of efforts made by CEB in this area, in particular the improvements to the Board website. On the harmonization and simplification of business practices, the Assembly welcomed the instances in which opportunities for efficiencies and the reduction of administrative and procedural burdens had been created, and in this regard requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to keep the Assembly informed of future progress.

The General Assembly also reaffirmed the importance of achieving the Millennium Development Goals and emphasized the key role to be played by CEB in ensuring coordinated United Nations system-wide support in the preparation of and follow-up to the post-2015 United Nations development agenda. In this regard, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to report to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its fifty-fifth session in 2015 on ways and means of strengthening that role in order to ensure coordinated and effective action to address the wide range of programmatic, management and operational issues linked to that global agenda.

Documentation

Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2013 (E/2014/__)

(b) New Partnership for Africa's Development

In its resolution 60/257, the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee contained in chapter IV, section B, of the report of the Committee on its forty-fifth session (A/60/16 and Corr.1), on the New Partnership for Africa's Development. In paragraph 237 of the report, the Committee recommended that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to report to the Committee at its forty-sixth session, and annually thereafter, on the progress, including problems, obstacles and challenges, as well as the goals of the United Nations system, to be achieved in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

In paragraph 5 of its resolution 68/20, the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee contained in chapter III, section B, of the report of the Committee on its fifty-third session (A/68/16), on the annual overview report on the New Partnership for Africa's Development. In its report, the Committee recommended that the Assembly endorse the conclusions and recommendations contained in paragraphs 106 to 114 of the annual report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (E/AC.51/2013/6). The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to include, in his future reports, detailed information related to the possible outcomes of the achievements of Partnership targets, and stressed that future reports should further enhance the focus on the impact, in both quantitative and qualitative terms, of the activities implemented by entities of the United Nations system in support of the Partnership.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (E/AC.51/2014/3)

5. Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit

Under agenda item 5, the Committee will consider the relevant report or reports of the Joint Inspection Unit, to be decided upon by the Committee during its organizational session on 24 April 2014.

Documentation

Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit (see E/AC.51/2014/L.2)

6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII), the Committee will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its fifty-fifth session, with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each agenda item and the legislative authority for their preparation, in order to enable the Committee to consider those documents, their contribution to its work, their urgency and their relevance in the light of the current situation.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-fifth session of the Committee (E/AC.51/2014/L.3)

7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-fourth session

The report of the Committee on its fifty-fourth session will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2014 and to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session.

Documentation

Draft report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its fifty-fourth session (E/AC.51/2014/L.4 and addenda)

Annex

Members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination for 2014

Membership in 2014	*Term expires on 31 December**
Argentina	2014
Belarus	2014
Benin	2016
Botswana	2015
Brazil	2014
Bulgaria	2014
Cameroon	2014
China	2016
Cuba	2014
El Salvador	2015
Ethiopia	2016
France	2015
Guinea	2014
Guinea-Bissau	2014
Haiti	2016
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2014
Italy	2014
Japan	2016
Kazakhstan	2014
Malaysia	2014

* The Economic and Social Council decided to postpone the nomination of two members from Western European and Other States for terms beginning on the date of elections by the General Assembly and expiring on 31 December 2014; one member from Western European and Other States for a term beginning on the date of election by the General Assembly and expiring on 31 December 2015; and one member from Asia-Pacific States for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2014 and expiring on 31 December 2016 (see Economic and Social Council decisions 2013/201 B to E and Assembly decision 68/404).

Membership in 2014	*Term expires on 31 December**
Morocco	2016
Pakistan	2014
Peru	2015
Republic of Moldova	2014
Russian Federation	2015
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2014
United Republic of Tanzania	2015
United States of America	2014
Uruguay	2014
Zimbabwe	2014